

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 28 and 29 are allowed, and that claims 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (Official Action at page 3).

By the above amendments, claim 24 has been canceled, and claims 25-27 have been amended to be in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 24 in each of such claims. Claims 25 and 27 have also been amended for readability purposes to recite standard Markush group language. Entry of the foregoing amendments is proper at least because they place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. See M.P.E.P. §714.12.

In the Official Action, claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,555,481 (*Ukai et al*). Without addressing the Examiner's comments concerning the subject matter disclosed by *Ukai et al*, it is noted that the present rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 24.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC (INCLUDING
ATTORNEYS FROM BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS)

Date: December 7, 2005

By: 

Roger H. Lee

Registration No. 46,317

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620